

# 2013 City of Austin Google Fiber Community Connections Program Application and Instructions

Google has announced plans to bring Google Fiber to Austin residents. The plan calls for building an ultra, high speed broadband network with Internet speeds of one gigabit per second, up to 100 times faster than normal to Austin's homes.

Google has agreed to provide up to 100 sites with broadband Internet services through its fiber network free of charge until April 8, 2023 in addition to City Hall and the new Central Library. These Community Connections will be to public or non-profit sites in the City of Austin that provide access and services directly to Austinites through what is being called the Community Connections program. Under the agreement with Google Fiber, the City of Austin will create the proposed list of sites for the program.

It is the City Council's goal to ensure an application and selection process that is transparent, available to all, and utilizes a clear set of selection criteria adopted by the City Council. Community Connections aims to provide fiber speed internet access directly to the public and will serve for innovation and digital inclusion, resulting in advancements unique to Austin's spirit.

Attached is the Community Connections Site Application, which is due by September 30, 2013.

Please direct questions to the City's Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs Office at [digital.inclusion@austintexas.gov](mailto:digital.inclusion@austintexas.gov) or 512-974-2999.

For more information and application: [austintexas.gov/digitalinclusion](http://austintexas.gov/digitalinclusion)

Thank you for your consideration.



## Community Connections Site Selection Application Form

The City of Austin will propose **100** public or non-profit organizations to receive Google Fiber connections at their locations.

### **Application Packet**

In order to be considered for selection, please submit the following items:

- **General Application Form.** Complete this form (ensuring that it is signed and dated.)
- **Criteria Form. Complete this form as fully as possible.** If the organization offers services at more than one location, the applicant should complete the Criteria Form for each location and prioritize the single location that will benefit the most from having a gigabit of service.

### **Application Submission**

All applications are due in the Office of Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs (TARA) before **4:45 p.m. on Friday, September 30, 2013**. Late applications will not be considered.

Submissions may be submitted by email or snail mail to:

Email: [digital.inclusion@austintexas.gov](mailto:digital.inclusion@austintexas.gov)

Address: City of Austin - Municipal Building -124 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 210, Austin, Texas 78701

Phone: 512.974.2999

### **Application Review Process**

#### ***Community Applications***

- August 26, 2013 - Community Site Applications Available
- September 30, 2013 - Deadline for Site Applications for Community Connections
- October 1-31, 2013 - Staff Review & Assessment

#### ***Site List Adoption***

- November 6 , 2013 – Community Tech & Telecommunications Commission - Discussion & Input
- November 13, 2013 – Emerging Technology & Telecommunications Council Committee - Discussion & Recommendation to Council
- November 21, 2013 - Council Discussion & Adoption of Community Connection Site List
- End of 2013 - Google Fiber requested deadline for Community Connection Site List from City

### **Privacy Statement**

This information is being collected and will be used to assist in determining your organization's eligibility and qualification for receiving a community connection on the City's proposed site list. This information provided may be published by the City. Any information collected, assembled, or maintained by or for a governmental body is subject to the Public Information Act.

<b>Community Connections General Application Form</b> <i>(Please complete this portion of application only once per organization if submitting for multiple sites)</i>		
<b>General Application Form</b>		
<b>1. Applicant Organization Name:</b> Oficina Legal del Pueblo Unido, Inc.		
<b>Alias/DBA:</b> Texas Civil Rights Project		
<b>Program Name for Google Fiber Connection:</b> Texas Civil Rights Project		
<b>Organization Mission and Purpose:</b>  The mission of the Texas Civil Rights Project (TCRP) is to promote racial, social, and economic justice through litigation, education, and social services for low/moderate-income persons least able to defend themselves. TCRP strives to foster equality, secure justice, ensure diversity, and strengthen communities in Texas.		
<b>Organization Website:</b> <a href="http://www.texascivilrightsproject.org">www.texascivilrightsproject.org</a>		
<b>Contact Name:</b> Amanda Hill, Development Director		
<b>City:</b> Austin	<b>State:</b> Texas	<b>Zip:</b> 78741
<b>Phone:</b> 512-474-5073 ext. 102 (Main Office)	<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:Amanda@texascivilrightsproject.org">Amanda@texascivilrightsproject.org</a>	
<b>Location(s) applying for site selection (including physical address of location) and how long your organization plans on being at each location:</b>  Our address is 1405 Montopolis Drive Austin, TX 78741. We own the building and plan on being at this location permanently.		
<b>Type of Organization:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit <input type="checkbox"/> Public Entity		
<b>Number of years in operation:</b> 23	<b>Number of employees at location:</b> 17	

### Community Connections Criteria Form

*(Please complete this portion of application for each location in an electronic document and please explain each response, 1000 words maximum per response, please)*

#### Criteria Form

Please include location if applying for more than one location:

#### Organization

1. What is your agency's vision? *(response required for all agencies)*

The vision of the Texas Civil Rights Project is to continue to expand and secure equality for low/moderate income people through legal services, education, advocacy, social work services, and counseling.

2. What is your agency's mission and purpose? *(response required for all agencies)*

The mission of the Texas Civil Rights Project is to promote racial, social, and economic justice through community education and litigation. We strive to foster equality, secure justice, ensure diversity, and strengthen communities. Founded as Oficina Legal del Pueblo Unido, Inc. (OLPU), the organization now operates under the D.B.A. Texas Civil Rights Project, with offices in Alamo, Austin, El Paso, Houston, and Odessa.

3. Please list your organization's affiliations, community partnerships, certifications, and/or accreditations. *(response required for all agencies)*

Some of our affiliations and community partnerships include, but are not limited to: University of Texas in Austin, St. Mary's, University of Texas Law, Minority Affairs Council, United We Dream, Casa Marianella, SafePlace, the American Immigration Lawyers Association, NAACP, MALDEF, Texas Advocacy Project, Catholic Charities, LINKS, Harmony Home, Hope Alliance, and Domestic Violence Prevention Inc.

4. What is the total number of unduplicated clients served by your organization at this location last fiscal year? *(response required for non-profit agencies only)*

We served approximately 2,315 unduplicated clients in 2012 at our Austin location.

5. Briefly provide an overview of your organization and the services it offers. *(response required for all agencies)*

Since its beginning, the Texas Civil Rights Project (TCRP) has achieved important successes in areas such as disability rights, Title IX in secondary education, minority voting rights, privacy, farm workers' rights, traditional civil liberties (such as free speech, assembly, and press, and equal protection), and opposing official misconduct, sex discrimination, employment bias, and grand jury discrimination.

Our services include direct legal representation, community education, public awareness campaigns, education and advocacy on behalf of those who have historically been underserved or excluded from the justice system because of socio-economic status, ethnic background, race, immigration status, or lack of access to civil rights attorneys.

6. Describe the community issues your organization is attempting to address. Include a description of the population most at risk of experiencing the issues described. (*response required for non-profit agencies only*)

TCRP's current projects address a range of human rights issues, including:

**\* Disability Rights.** TCRP has been a pioneer in legal education and work under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), greatly improving access to public and private facilities and programs, as well as criminal justice matters. For instance, we have used the ADA to remedy problems of suicide in county jails and prisons, police mishandling of mental health calls, HIV medication in county jails, and to establish a special program for parolees with mental disabilities that dramatically reduced the rate of recidivism.

TCRP set the national model in ballot accessibility for blind voters and has led 20 regional compliance campaigns in Texas under the ADA, prompting myriad businesses and public facilities to become more accessible to elderly and disabled persons. As part of this effort, TCRP published a well-regarded human rights report on the access problems in the Texas justice system, surveying counties across the state, and a self-help legal manual for persons with disabilities.

Through litigation, TCRP took on the cause of HIV positive individuals in central and west Texas whose status was illegally disclosed without consent by healthcare providers and others wrongly excluded from government programs.

**\*Rural Economic Justice.** TCRP helps farm laborers and other low-income workers rectify injustice in the workplace and improve working conditions. Our efforts have addressed wage claims, sexual harassment by crew leaders and managers of housing projects, field sanitation, and protecting the right to organize to improve labor conditions and life in the *colonias*.

To combat predatory financial practices, TCRP also conducts (outside of Austin) community education and litigation on behalf of low-income Hispanic families cheated on fraudulent land-purchase schemes and exorbitant water district fees in *colonias*, unincorporated low-income communities along the Texas-Mexico border that often lack basic infrastructure such as potable water, access to electricity, and paved roads.

**\*Domestic Violence Against Immigrant Women.** TCRP operates a highly-respected and innovative Circuit Rider Program to assist abused undocumented immigrants. Under the federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), qualifying immigrant victims of domestic violence are eligible to apply for legal resident status and valid work authorization, which give them the ability to seek employment, become self-sufficient and support themselves and their children independently of their abusive U.S. citizen or legal resident spouses. Through this program, TCRP's Circuit Riders — advocates who travel to rural Texas — help abused immigrants file the necessary documentation to separate from their abusive spouses, secure legal status in the United States, and find gainful employment to support themselves and their children. This program now has a community education component using *promotoras* — peer educators — to raise awareness about the rights, protections and services available to abused undocumented immigrants (typically women and their children). TCRP also provides a social services component to support clients throughout the legal process, while connecting them to valuable resources within their community.

**\*Title IX Compliance in Secondary School.** To ensure that girls and young women in Texas schools receive equal treatment and opportunities, TCRP implemented extensive educational efforts and litigation in rural communities regarding student peer sexual harassment and comparable sports and educational benefits in Texas schools. We have also published a "How to address sexual harassment" manual in Spanish and English, as well as a similar manual for sports opportunities.

**\*Racial Discrimination.** TCRP has helped correct incidents of race and ethnic discrimination. Through our "Equity under the Law" campaign, we took on the cause of African Americans and Hispanic Americans subjected to discrimination in banks, restaurants, motels and other places of

public accommodation. We worked with MALDEF and LMLAC to create single-member school districts and assisted in redistricting the Texas legislature and Texas congressional districts so as to protect the voting and representational rights of minority citizens. After September 11, 2001, we helped South Asian, Muslim, and Arab citizens, permanent residents, and university students who fell victim to discrimination.

**\*Criminal Justice System.** We have assisted victims of police misconduct in every corner of Texas, taking on cases of excessive force, false arrest, and warrantless searches of homes. Our work also has ensured that county jails around the state do much more to prevent inmate suicide, provide interpreters for deaf prisoners seeking medical attention, protect vulnerable inmates from sexual assault, administer HIV medications, and make medications accessible for inmates with mental disabilities and improve their care.

**\*Protecting Free Speech.** TCRP has long been a vigorous protector of people's First Amendment rights. For example, in the wake of the protests across the state for immigrant rights, TCRP took on the cause of participants who were subjected to excessive force, abuse and false arrest. TCRP also successfully mediated re-training of all El Paso police officers on First Amendment rights and use of appropriate force as part of the settlement of a case in which the police assaulted students conducting a peaceful rally at their high school.

7. Describe the demographics (e.g. ethnicity, gender, age, and income levels) and geographic characteristics of the community members your organization serves. *(response required for non-profit agencies only)*

We serve low to moderate-income people who are unable to pay for legal services. We have a broad age range, though our DACA program (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) is targeted at youth. We focus on working with underserved communities, in particular Hispanic, African American, and Asian communities. Our Austin location focuses on people in Central Texas, though it is the headquarters for the four other locations across the state. We serve men and women in approximately equal numbers, though different programs may have different demographics, e.g. our VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) clients are typically female and our prisoners' rights clients tend to be male.

8. Describe your organization's accessibility (e.g. accessible main entrance, within blocks of a public bus stop, etc.). *(response required for non-profit agencies only)*

Our location is fully accessible and less than a block away from a public bus stop. We are highly focused on the Americans with Disabilities Act; many of our civil rights cases are disability rights cases.

9. If selected, how will your organization incorporate Google Fiber into the services it offers? *(response required for all agencies)*

TCRP will benefit from Google Fiber in the following ways:

- The higher bandwidth would allow for better delivery of multimedia content (e.g. transferring case files to attorneys).
- We would have better connection abilities in terms of teleconferencing with attorneys or other groups we rely on to deliver our services.
- It would improve our ability to serve clients, as many of our counseling/social services are provided via Skype, so Google Fiber would enable a clearer, uninterrupted connection.
- Off-site server backups would be faster.
- In addition, saving money on internet would save TCRP approximately \$17,400 over the next ten

years, not including the added cost of inflation. That is money we could use for direct client services instead. If needed, we could work with Google or the City of Austin to decide which program that money would be directed to.

10. The City of Austin requires an annual report explaining how selected organizations and the community they serve benefit from Google Fiber. If selected, how will your organization measure the impact Google Fiber has on those served by your organization? Describe evaluation methods, goals, and objectives.  
*(response required for all agencies)*

TCRP will continue our methods of tracking the numbers of served clients, as well as client satisfaction and success (via evaluations by clients). We will provide this data to the City of Austin and supplement it with annual narrative summaries of how Google Fiber benefited TCRP clients in each particular year.

Our goal is to increase the number of clients served, as well as the productivity and effectiveness of our systems and services. Our objective is to improve client services by providing more counseling services via Skype, for those who are less able to utilize services at our office (due to economic barriers, lack of transportation, etc.). Substituting in-person conferences with teleconferences would also be more efficient for our staff attorneys (by eliminating travel time, travel expenses, etc.), as well as the pro bono attorneys who work with us. In addition, having reliable teleconferencing as an option will no doubt be an incentive for other attorneys to start volunteering.

### Community

*(responses required for all agencies)*

1. Briefly describe how Google Fiber will enhance public participation in your organization's service.

The higher bandwidth of Google Fiber would enhance our telecommunication, which is sometimes unreliable. Fast internet would enable clearer, uninterrupted connections with attorneys and clients, many of whom rely on Skype for their counseling and social services. Utilizing the fast internet Google Fiber provides will enable day-to-day operations to be more efficient as well, such as off-site server backups and internet research on potential community partners, potential grant opportunities, resources and referrals for clients, etc. Also, many of our services involve time-sensitivity and therefore reliable, uninterrupted internet is key to maximizing our efficiency. In addition, free internet would save TCRP approximately \$17,400 over the next ten years (not including inflation or any proportionate rising costs). The money we save would go back into our programs.

2. Briefly describe how your organization promotes digital inclusion.

Austin FreeNet is a non-profit that provides technology training and access for underserved communities in particular. They have given our office a computer with which volunteers and clients can use for free to search for jobs, create résumés, check their email, keep up with important news, etc. A further goal for this computer would be using it to teleconference with clients in our *promotora* groups (VAWA peer educators) in East Texas, broadening our reach and effectiveness.

3. Will bringing Google Fiber to your organization help the underserved? Please explain.

Our organization wholly exists to help underserved people. For 23 years the Texas Civil Rights Project (TCRP) has worked hard for disability rights, Title IX, minority voting rights, privacy, farm workers' rights, traditional civil liberties, sex discrimination, employment bias, and grand jury discrimination. We provide direct legal representation, community education, public awareness campaigns, education and

advocacy on behalf of those who have historically been underserved or excluded from the justice system because of socio-economic status, ethnic background, race, immigration status, or lack of access to civil rights attorneys. Lack of transportation, illness, inability to take time off work to travel to appointments, etc. are common obstacles in setting up counseling and social services appointments for our clients; reliable, uninterrupted telecommunication would eliminate many of those barriers. Having Google Fiber would provide that reliable telecommunication, therefore expanding our capacity to help the underserved.

4. How much of your community will benefit from the Google Fiber connection?

Our Austin location serves all of Central Texas. It is also the headquarters for our statewide operations (including offices in Houston, El Paso, Alamo, and Odessa), so a Google Fiber connection would positively affect our clients statewide.

5. Briefly describe how your organization will offer a new community service as a result of the Google Fiber connection.

We have many programs and services (such as legal, educational, advocacy, social services and counseling) that having Google Fiber would allow us to make more efficient and expand due to better connection and telecommunication abilities. It would also aid the internet and telecommunication connection for our Austin FreeNet computer, which volunteers and clients are able to use at our office for free.

### **Innovation**

*(responses required for all agencies)*

1. Please describe the potential innovative applications that could be developed with a gigabit connection.

Better teleconferencing would greatly benefit our services, through enhancing our communications with clients who are unable to get to our office due to economic barriers, lack of transportation, and inability to make time to travel due to work and family commitments, among other reasons. Teleconferencing would also make it easier for the lawyers we work with, due to eliminating travel time.

2. Does your organization have or foresee high bandwidth applications?

We use Skype frequently and want to utilize it more in the future to better serve our clients, however, it is often unreliable due to our internet connection.

3. Briefly describe how your organization is interested in advancing your technology.

We are eager to expand our teleconferencing capabilities in order to more efficiently serve clients and expand our reach to new clients.

4. Does your organization have the capacity and resources to advance your technologies? Please explain.



We have an ongoing contract with Global Gage Systems, an IT service provider who would be competent to integrate a gigabit connection into the existing office networks. We also recently received a grant to upgrade our server backup system and computers. Global Gage Systems played an integral role in our upgrade, and we are confident that they would be able to assist us in the upgrades necessary to implement a Google Fiber connection.

**Practical Pragmatic**

*(responses required for all agencies)*

1. Will the connection help your organization financially? How?

Saving money on internet would save TCRP approximately \$17,400 over the next ten years, not including the added cost of inflation. That is money we could direct toward our services instead. If needed, we could work with Google to decide which program that money would be directed to.

2. Will this be the organization's primary or secondary connection?

This would be our primary connection.

3. Does your organization have (or will it have) equipment necessary to connect?

We do not have any fiber equipment, but the current networks are a mixture of 1 gigabit and 100 megabit ports.

4. Does your organization currently have access to a high bandwidth connection?

We are currently served by a 10 megabit down/ 1 megabit up cable connection from Time Warner and a T1 line from AT&T that serves carried voice traffic, and serves as a backup.

**Applicant's Statement**

I certify that answers given herein are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that false or misleading information given in my application will result in disqualification. I understand and agree that I am required to abide by City of Austin ordinances, policies and rules.

I understand if selected to receive a Google Fiber connection that the organization I represent may be required to:

☒ submit an annual report to the TARA Office explaining how the organization has benefited from the free service.

Amanda Hill

Signature

Sept 26, 2013

Date

Development Director

Title

**Please submit this form to TARA by 4:45 p.m. on Friday, September 30, 2013.**

Email: [digital.inclusion@austintexas.gov](mailto:digital.inclusion@austintexas.gov)

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124 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 210  
Austin, Texas 78701